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ATHERSTONE  
Rural District Council



**ANNUAL REPORTS**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
AND THE  
**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR**  
FOR THE YEAR

**1952**

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ATHERSTONE:  
ATHERSTONE NEWS PRESS, LONG STREET.

## **GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE DISTRICT**

The Rural District of Atherstone lies practically in the centre of England in the northern part of the County of Warwickshire. High ground rises to the west forming a lovely range of hills, in places about 500 feet in height.

The busy trunk road known as Watling Street (A5) passes through the town of Atherstone and the middle of the rural district, as also does the main London-Crewe railway line.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. At the beginning of Norman times Atherstone appears to have been well established, and was entered in the Domesday Book as Aderstone.

### **Social Conditions and Occupations**

The interests of Atherstone have always been industrial commercial and agricultural. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works and other minor industries. Splendid opportunities exist for the introduction of new as well as the extension of some of the industries.

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman :*

Councillor E. BOND.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor W. A. BROWN.

*Councillors :*

N. W. Blower, J. Sanders, Mrs. C. Rose, G. S. Collins,  
E. Dingley, J. A. S. Durno, Rev. Bracebridge L. Hall,  
W. H. Knight, P. J. Luby, J. F. McCarthy, R. Mellor,  
R. C. Middleton, A. Morris, A. L. Standley, W. J. H. Trotman.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health :*

G. R. KERSHAW, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendant :*

S. B. ACTON, M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.S.I.A.

*Clerk/Pupils in Health Department :*

CARL F. KEMPER (Armed Forces)  
JOHN VERTIGAN

Public Health Department,  
Atherstone.

# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Public Health Department,  
Atherstone, August, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone  
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for 1952, which includes the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Under the National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47), the Local Authority may make application to the Court for the removal to a suitable hospital or other place of persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and who are unable to devote to themselves and are not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

After long observation, thought, and discussion, the Council reluctantly decided to make application in respect of an elderly married couple living in the district, and a Court Order was obtained. Both were aged, the man being deaf and his wife almost totally blind, so that in spite of generous help from the only known but distant relative, conditions in the house had degenerated to the most primitive level; as might be expected, the house was heavily infested with cockroaches, and in a deplorably dirty state.

The assistance of their only relative was not appreciated by the man, and his obstruction extended to the Sanitary Staff upon their efforts to disinfect the house; the climax came when this elderly and partially sighted lady was discovered endeavouring to prepare custard, from the D.D.T. powder which had been left for their use in an attempt to control the infestation which repeatedly spread from the house to the neighbouring houses on either side.

Under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Council have authorised their Medical Officer of Health to make similar application to the Court in such cases in emergency. This power was used in one case during the year; an elderly lady was living alone in a three storey house, and although she had been offered a comfortable home in a religious house, she was understandably reluctant

to leave her familiar home and possessions, although she was quite unable to carry out housework. It was evident that she had not been into the upper storeys of the house for many years, and a cape lying on a bed in an upper storey was found to be covered in thick dust just as it must have been laid down many years beforehand; neighbours had kindly brought her meals, ready cooked, from time to time, but her own shopping was limited by her physical incapacity to the immediate neighbourhood, including the jug and bottle department. As might be expected, it was only a matter of time before this old lady became ill and required constant nursing attention.

I regret to report that these three persons have since died, and it is indeed possible that their removal from familiar surroundings may have hastened their deaths, though I have confidence that the duty of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Local Authority was abundantly clear in each case. It is a most distressing task to have to recommend the removal of elderly persons from their own homes to unfamiliar surroundings and to this is added the difficulty of deciding whether a hospital or welfare accommodation would be most suitable: something between the two is desirable, but what is really necessary is that welfare accommodation should be sufficiently attractive to induce elderly persons without relatives to enter it voluntarily long before their homes have degenerated to such a state as exemplified in the above descriptions.

It would clearly be impossible for Welfare Authorities to provide such accommodation in sufficient quantity to meet the impending demand from elderly people who can be cared for by relatives, and in spite of the high ideals of the National Assistance Act, there will in future have to be a partial return to self-help within the family.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

I have been forcibly and continually struck by the vast amount of sanitary work which remains to be done in the area. I am compelled to conclude that it would have been wiser and more economical in such a district as this to have devoted nearly all available resources to the betterment of environmental hygiene before offering the whole panoply of personal health and welfare services; it may be true that men and materials were not available for this work immediately after the war, but many of the people who might otherwise have been available must by now be either dispensing

the personal services or be finding it necessary to apply for them in order to meet the mounting costs of both.

With the extension of the piped water supply to Freasley, there remain few localities in the district that are without a water supply that is adequate in quality; in quantity however the supply is insufficient, in spite of withdrawing more than is advisable from certain sources, and will remain so until bulk supply is available from Nuneaton in two or three year's time. While it may prove possible to meet the current and anticipated demand during the intervening years, the agricultural demand it not being met and this is a hindrance to milk-producing farms which are capable of improvement; it is also a matter of some anxiety to the Medical Officer of Health at a time when the notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis are increasing.

The water supply to about a dozen properties between Birchley Heath and Church End has given rise to some anxiety. During the summer most of the wells dried up or were heavily polluted, and while a stand-pipe was provided at the Birchley Heath end of the road, a four hundred gallon water tank mounted on a truck was held in readiness for emergencies. The stand-pipe however remains a long way away from some of the properties, and the cost of bringing the supply nearer would be extremely heavy for so few houses, some of which are not likely to last for a great many years longer.

An improvement carried out during the year was the installation of a chlorination plant for the Baddesley Colliery Water Supply.

The sewerage systems and sewage disposal works in the district, however, are almost without exception seriously inadequate and in disrepair, complicated by unrecorded drainage and wrong connections.

Following an enquiry in the Spring, authorisation has been given for a start to be made on part of a scheme to improve the sewerage and sewage disposal in Atherstone town and Maneatte, by which it is hoped to avoid the objectionable backing-up which has occurred at the lowest point of Long Street. A recent report from the Consulting Engineers concerning the systems and disposal in the northern part of the district recommends complete reorganisation and a great deal of new construction. At the same time it is disappointing to record that a small sewerage scheme for some forty or fifty houses at Birchley Heath has been rejected by the Ministry for the third time, which is a bad omen indeed for the much larger schemes which are necessary.

The spoil bank at Baddesley Colliery, which I understand has been burning for very many years, remains a most objectionable nuisance, but as a result of an enquiry under the Town and Country Planning Acts, in 1951, this spoil bank is shortly to be abandoned and a new one started in the same neighbourhood.

Under the Public Health (Coal Mine Refuse) Act, 1939, such a spoil bank is a statutory nuisance whether it is burning or not if there is reasonable cause to believe that it is liable to spontaneous combustion. Consultation has taken place with the National Coal Board on the methods to be employed in the new spoil bank, which is believed will be an improvement on the present practice, but it is by no means certain that a similar nuisance will not arise there unless a really effective covering is made; the suggestion that the best practicable means of avoiding a nuisance might prove so costly as to make it necessary to abandon these workings, from which a proportion of the local inhabitants derive their livelihood, has been a factor in the consideration of the matter.

### Housing

A new factor in housing during this year has been the provision of two housing estates by the Coal Industries Housing Association, in addition to the Council's own building programme. In spite of excellent progress, it will not be possible for a year or two yet to embark on the major work of clearing and re-building the centre of Atherstone town, and there remain a great many unfit houses in the district.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

During the Summer there were two small outbreaks of Food Poisoning, which are believed to have been due to pre-cooked meat, prepared by the same butcher. In both it appears probable that the cause was the poison produced by the same phage-type of staphylococcus unwittingly introduced during the preparation of the meat by healthy persons to whom the presence of the organism could not have been apparent. The premises and practice of the butcher are beyond criticism and portions of both batches of this commodity were consumed without ill effect soon after their removal from the refrigerator. It appears probable that no persons would have been affected by this meat had it all been eaten soon after preparation instead of being made up into sandwiches, etc., and kept at room temperature during very hot weather for several hours before it was eaten.

It is quite unreasonable to expect such food to be absolutely sterile by the time it reaches the table, and it is useless to expect it to remain innocuous when it has been stored under unsuitable conditions, which allow germs to multiply to produce an excessive amount of poison.

This type of food poisoning has been mentioned by the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health in every Annual Report since 1945, and reference made to the need not only for scrupulous cleanliness in the manufacture and preparation of pre-cooked meats, but also to the need for their immediate consumption or suitable storage at low temperature. So long as this advice goes unheeded outbreaks of food poisoning will occur through the ignorance or carelessness of housewives or caterers, and one wonders whether it is really worthwhile retailers selling this type of commodity without a clear warning that it should be eaten the same day unless it is suitably stored.

I understand that when such commodities are sold from Self-Service Shops in the United States of America, the packages bear the words "The contents should be eaten before" such and such a date.

I wish to thank the Officers of other departments, and other authorities, for their help during the year, and especially the staff of the Sanitary Department.

My thanks are also due to you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen for the consideration you have shown to me and my staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

G. R. KERSHAW,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

|                                                               |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Area in acres                                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21,945  |
| Population, census, 1931                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21,847  |
| Population, census, 1951                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23,662  |
| Intercensal increase in population                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,815   |
| Population (mid-year estimate) 1952                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23,660  |
| Number of inhabited houses (V.L. January, 1952)               |     |     |     |     |     |     | 6,794   |
| Density of population, i.e., number of persons per acre, 1951 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.08    |
| Rateable value of District                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £   | 109,959 |
| Sum represented by penny rate                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £412    |
| Excess of males over females (at Census)                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 416     |

## Parish Population, Estimated 1951—

| <i>Parish</i>   |     | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i>  |
|-----------------|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Ansley          | ... | 1,063        | 1,016          | 2,079         |
| Atherstone.     | ... | 2,919        | 3,001          | 5,920         |
| Baddesley Ensor | ... | 833          | 747            | 1,580         |
| Baxterley       | ... | 195          | 166            | 361           |
| Bentley         | ... | 104          | 33             | 187           |
| Caldecote       | ... | 81           | 45             | 126           |
| Grendon         | ... | 860          | 809            | 1,669         |
| Hartshill       | ... | 1,402        | 1,378          | 2,780         |
| Mancetter       | ... | 978          | 954            | 1,932         |
| Merevale        | ... | 93           | 120            | 213           |
| Oldbury         | ... | 33           | 39             | 72            |
| Polesworth      | ... | 2,086        | 1,886          | 3,972         |
| Dordon          | ... | 1,437        | 1,336          | 2,771         |
|                 |     |              |                | <u>23,662</u> |

## VITAL STATISTICS—

|                          |     | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------------------|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Live Births              | ... | 188         | 204           | 392          |
| Legitimate               | ... | 182         | 198           | 389          |
| Illegitimate             | ... | 6           | 6             | 12           |
| Birth-rate               | ... |             |               | 16.56        |
| Comparability Factor     | ... |             |               | 1.01         |
| Corrected Birth Rate     | ... |             |               | 16.61        |
| Neo-Natal Deaths         | ... | 5           | 4             | 9            |
| Legitimate               | ... | 5           | 4             | 9            |
| Illegitimate             | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Neo-Natal Mortality rate |     |             |               | 22.9         |
| Still-births             | ... | 4           | 2             | 6            |
| Rate per 1,000 births    | ... |             |               | 15.3         |
| Deaths                   | ... | 139         | 119           | 258          |
| Death-rate               | ... |             |               | 10.9         |
| Correction Factor        | ... |             |               | 1.10         |
| Corrected Death-rate     | ... |             |               | 12.0         |
| Infant deaths            | ... | 8           | 7             | 15           |
| Legitimate               | ... | 8           | 6             | 14           |
| Illegitimate             | ... | —           | 1             | 1            |
| Infant mortality rate    | ... |             |               | 38.26        |
| Legitimate               | ... |             |               | 35.7         |
| Illegitimate             | ... |             |               | 83.33        |

## No. of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—

|                                              |     |     |     |     |   |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| From sepsis                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| From other causes                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

## BIRTHS

The number of births registered in the Rural District was 392, 188 of the children were males and 204 females.

The number of illegitimate births registered was 12.

About 40% of the mothers seek admission to neighbouring hospitals for their confinement.

The birth-rate for the year is 16.56 per 1,000 of the population and is thus higher than for the whole of England and Wales (15.3 per 1,000) In 160 smaller towns of comparable populations the birth rate was 15.5 per 1,000

## DEATHS

The number of deaths registered during the year was 258, giving a death rate of 10.9 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.3 per 1,000 and for the 160 smaller towns 11.2 per 1,000.

The diseases which have been especially active in adding to the number of deaths are—

|                                                 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Diseases of the heart and blood-vessels ... ... | 56   | 89   | 101  |
| All forms of tuberculosis                       | 11   | 10   | 8    |
| Cancer ... ... ...                              | 27   | 36   | 30   |
| Cerebral haemorrhage                            | 33   | 35   | 42   |
| Pneumonia ... ... ...                           | 13   | 13   | 8    |
| Bronchitis ... ... ...                          | 14   | 7    | 5    |
| Death due to violence or suicide ... ... ...    | 7    | 9    | 11   |

## NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR OF 1952

|     | <i>Causes of Death</i>                  | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1.  | Tuberculosis, respiratory               | ...         | 3             |
| 2.  | Tuberculosis, other                     | ...         | 1             |
| 3.  | Syphilitic disease                      | ...         | 0             |
| 4.  | Diphtheria                              | ...         | 0             |
| 5.  | Whooping cough                          | ...         | 0             |
| 6.  | Meningococcal infections                | ...         | 0             |
| 7.  | Acute poliomyelitis                     | ...         | 0             |
| 8.  | Measles                                 | ...         | 0             |
| 9.  | Other infective and parasitic diseases  | 0           | 0             |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | 2           | 6             |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus       | 4           | 0             |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast              | 0           | 6             |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | 0           | 1             |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 4           | 7             |

|     | <i>Causes of Death</i>                 |     |     |     | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
|-----|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|---------------|
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia                  | ... | ... | ... | 0           | 0             |
| 16. | Diabetas                               | ... | ... | ... | 0           | 3             |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system     |     |     | 23  | 19          |               |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina               | ... | ... | 23  | 14          |               |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease        |     |     | 2   | 1           |               |
| 20. | Other heart disease                    | ... | ... | 27  | 21          |               |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease              | ... | ... | 8   | 5           |               |
| 22. | Influenza                              | ... | ... | ... | 0           | 0             |
| 23. | Pneumonia                              | ... | ... | ... | 5           | 3             |
| 24. | Bronchitis                             | ... | ... | ... | 2           | 3             |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system   |     |     | 0   | 0           |               |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum          | ... | ... | 3   | 2           |               |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea     | ... | ... | 1   | 1           |               |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis                | ... | ... | 1   | 2           |               |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate                | ... | ... | 1   | 0           |               |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion        | ... | ... | 0   | 0           |               |
| 31. | Congenital malformations               | ... | ... | 0   | 2           |               |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases |     |     | 15  | 15          |               |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents                | ... | ... | 4   | 0           |               |
| 34. | All other accidents                    | ... | ... | 6   | 1           |               |
| 35. | Suicide                                | ... | ... | 4   | 0           |               |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war         |     |     | 0   | 0           |               |
|     |                                        |     |     |     | 139         | 119           |
|     |                                        |     |     |     | Total       | 258           |

### BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY IN ATHERSTONE

| Year | No. of Births | Birth Rate | No. of Deaths | Crude Death Rate | Infantile Mortality per 1,000 | Average 5 years |            |                          |
|------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|
|      |               |            |               |                  |                               | Birth Rate      | Death Rate | Infantile Mortality Rate |
| 1943 | 424           | 19.3       | 213           | 9.7              | 49.5                          |                 |            |                          |
| 1944 | 464           | 21.2       | 239           | 10.9             | 40.9                          |                 |            |                          |
| 1945 | 460           | 21.2       | 210           | 9.7              | 45.7                          | 20.8            | 10.3       | 44.4                     |
| 1946 | 487           | 21.8       | 241           | 10.8             | 47.2                          |                 |            |                          |
| 1947 | 466           | 20.7       | 229           | 10.2             | 38.6                          |                 |            |                          |
| 1948 | 452           | 19.3       | 222           | 9.5              | 28.8                          |                 |            |                          |
| 1949 | 428           | 18.1       | 233           | 9.8              | 28.0                          |                 |            |                          |
| 1950 | 396           | 16.7       | 206           | 8.7              | 30.3                          | 17.5            | 9.9        | 32.1                     |
| 1951 | 397           | 16.8       | 252           | 10.7             | 35.3                          |                 |            |                          |
| 1952 | 392           | 16.6       | 258           | 10.9             | 38.3                          |                 |            |                          |

## INQUESTS

|                                              |     |     |    |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| No. of sudden deaths reported to Coroner ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| No. of Inquests ...                          | ... | ... | 13 |
| No. of Post-Mortem examinations ...          | ... | ... | 13 |

## Certified cause of death—

|    |                                |     | Male | Female | Total |
|----|--------------------------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| a. | Natural causes                 | ... | ...  | 10     | 7     |
| b. | Misadventure                   | ... | ...  | 1      | 0     |
| c. | Suicide whilst of unsound mind |     | 3    | 0      | 3     |
| d. | Found drowned                  | ... | ...  | 0      | 0     |
| e. | Accidental                     | ... | ...  | 4      | 0     |
| f. | Stillborn                      | ... | ...  | 0      | 0     |
|    |                                |     |      |        | —     |
|    |                                |     |      |        | 25    |

## THE GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The General Practitioner Service is administered by the Warwickshire Executive Council; eight medical practitioners live in the district, but others living in neighbouring districts also practice in the rural district.

The district lies in the Birmingham Hospital Region.

There are no specialists facilities continuously available, but the chest physician attends the Clinic at 5, Market Street, weekly. The former isolation hospital at Grendon is now used as a recovery unit in connection with the Nuneaton Hospitals comprised in Group 20, administered from Coventry. Tamworth Hospital contained in the Lichfield, Sutton and Tamworth Group No. 23, is also very close.

Cases of infectious diseases are usually admitted to Whitley Hospital, Coventry.

The Warwickshire County Council provide Domiciliary Nurses and Domestic Helps in the district and have made arrangements for Vaccination and Immunisation, the Care of Mothers and Young Children, the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care and an Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Depot is at Oakfield, Arden Hill.

Infant Welfare Centres, managed by voluntary committees, are held at Atherstone, Ansley, Polesworth and Dordon. Assistance is received from the County Councils. A mobile centre provided by the County Council attends Baddesley Ensor. A School Clinic attended by a doctor, is provided at Atherstone and Polesworth and a Minor Ailment Clinic is held for a short time daily in Hartshill.

The Public Health Laboratory in Coventry accepts specimens sent for examination. Messrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, Public Analysts, Birmingham, are also frequently employed by the Council.

A small supply of Diphteria anti-toxin is held in the Health Department in the Council Offices and anti-toxin is also available from the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry and from the Hospitals.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following are the numbers of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1951.

|                         |     |     |     | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Diphtheria              | ... | ... | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Pneumonia               | ... | ... | ... | 11          | 5             | 16           |
| Erysipelas              | ... | ... | ... | 1           | 1             | 2            |
| Peurperal Pyrexia       | ... | ... | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Whooping Cough          | ... | ... | ... | 1           | 2             | 3            |
| Measles                 | ... | ... | ... | 67          | 53            | 120          |
| Typhoid Fever           | ... | ... | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Meningococcal Infection | ... | ... | ... | 2           | 1             | 3            |
| Acute poliomyelitis—    |     |     |     |             |               |              |
| Paralytic               | ... | ... | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Non-paralytic           | ... | ... | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Acute encephalitis      | ... | ... | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Dysentery               | ... | ... | ... | —           | 1             | 1            |
| Ophthalmic neonatorum   | ... | ... | ... | —           | —             | —            |
| Food poisoning          | ... | ... | ... | 6           | —             | 6            |
|                         |     |     |     | —           | —             | —            |
|                         |     |     |     | 127         | 105           | 232          |

Cases of Diphtheria and serious cases of Scarlet Fever are treated in the Coventry Isolation Hospital. The Ministry of Health meets the cost of treatment under the National Health Service Act.

There were no deaths from Zymotic Diseases in the year.

# TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

| Year Ending Dec. 31st,<br>1952                                                   | MALES               |                             | FEMALES             |                             | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
|                                                                                  | Pul-<br>mon-<br>ary | Non-<br>Pul-<br>mon-<br>ary | Pul-<br>mon-<br>ary | Non-<br>Pul-<br>mon-<br>ary |       |
| (a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year ..                          | 84                  | 18                          | 48                  | 22                          | 172   |
| (b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for first time in year .. | 13                  | 5                           | 9                   | 6                           | 33    |
| (c) Number of cases restored to Register .. ..                                   | —                   | —                           | —                   | —                           | —     |
| (d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by formal notification ..   | 2                   | —                           | 4                   | 1                           | 7     |
| (e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year .. .. ..               | 11                  | 2                           | 3                   | 3                           | 19    |
| (f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st Dec. .. .. ..                  | 88                  | 21                          | 58                  | 26                          | 193   |

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
ATHERSTONE.

October, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone  
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of submitting to you the annual Report on my part of the work of the Health Department.

The erection of Council houses since the end of the War has averaged 120 each year; in the period to March, 1954, there will be around 450 more houses completed and occupied (324 Coal Industry Housing Association and 120 Council houses) and an increase in population of some 650 persons who will be members of families of transferred miners. Council houses under construction and for which sites are approved or earmarked number a further 900. If the erection of new houses proceeds according to plan, and there is every reason why it should, the majority of our "slum" clearance can be carried out in the next six years.

In 1943, when I came to Atherstone, the water resources of the area, referred to in a later section of this Report, were then said to be stretched almost to breaking point. There has been no additional source of water supply since that date, but arrangements for the future were made in 1949 through the Nuneaton-Atherstone Water Supply Scheme and when this supply is laid on the area will be well served.

Modern houses with today's amenities and hot water systems in particular, result in greater water consumption and consequently greater sewage output. In this connection it is well to consider the position with regard to sewerage and sewage disposal, which is briefly but pointedly discussed in a later section of the Report.

Your refuse collection and disposal service, the efficiency of which you can budget for without reference to higher authority, now satisfactorily carries out its work, but it will in due time have to be increased to meet the ever expanding demand.

I wish to express my appreciation of the assistance and support I have received from the Chairman and Members

of the Public Health and Housing Committees and in conclusion to thank Mr. Margoschis, your Additional Sanitary Inspector, for his thorough and conscientious work throughout the year.

Commending this Report to your notice,

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

## HOUSING.—

As in past years, a considerable amount of housing repair work has been carried out, as is shown in the list of work done, which ends this Report. The requirements of the Council have been pursued in that all houses which were not placed in Category V (for demolition) in the Housing Survey, 1947, shall have water supply laid in and separate sanitary accommodation.

Since the Rural Housing Survey, completed in June, 1947, separate and new closet accommodation has been provided to 330 houses; 257 of these are water closets and 73 pail closets. The latter have largely resulted from the conversion of privy-middens and the provision of separate pail closets where no suitable means of drainage exists or can be made available.

There are still 516 dwellings in the District which have to use joint closet accommodation, but about 250 of these are to be condemned and demolished as soon as circumstances permit.

## PART (A) CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936).

|                          | Number of<br>dwelling houses<br>demolished<br>in the period | Number of<br>persons<br>displaced |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Unfit<br>houses          | Other<br>houses                                             |                                   |
| (1) Land coloured "pink" | —                                                           | —                                 |
| (2) Land coloured "grey" | —                                                           | —                                 |

## PART (B) Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

| Demolition and Closing Orders                                                                 | Houses    | Number of<br>persons<br>displaced |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Housing Act, 1936.                                                                        |           |                                   |
| (a) Houses demolished as<br>a result of formal or in-<br>formal procedure under<br>section II | ...   ... | 10   34                           |

|                                                                                                        |        | Number of<br>persons<br>displaced |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                                                                        | Houses |                                   |
| <i>Demolition and Closing Orders</i>                                                                   |        |                                   |
| (b) Houses closed in pursuance of an under-taking given by the owners under Sec. II and still in force | 1      | 3                                 |
| (c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ...                                                         | —      | —                                 |
| (2) Housing Act, 1949.                                                                                 |        |                                   |
| (a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1) ...                                                         | —      | —                                 |
| (b) Demolition Orders determined and closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2) ... ...             | —      | —                                 |
| <i>Repairs</i>                                                                                         |        | <i>number of houses</i>           |

#### Informal Action

|                                                                                                                                                                      |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (3) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts | 181 |
| (4) Public Health Acts.<br>Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices                                                           | 44  |
| (a) By owners ... ... ... ...                                                                                                                                        | —   |
| By local authority in default of owners                                                                                                                              | —   |
| (5) Housing Act, 1936.<br>Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10 and 16)                                                          | 6   |
| (a) By owners ... ... ... ...                                                                                                                                        | 1   |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners                                                                                                                          | —   |

#### MILK SUPPLIES AND DAIRIES

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the administration of the laws and regulations governing the production of milk.

Local sanitary authorities have duties in connection with the distribution of milk and distributor's dairies, other than those at farms, and the exercising of measures to protect the public against the sale of milk which might cause disease.

In this latter connection the County Council submitted for biological examination during 1952, 65 samples of non-graded and accredited milk which were produced in our area. Seven of these were found to contain living tubercle bacilli. Six tuberculin tested samples were likewise examined, but were negative. Of the seven positive tubercle

supplies, six were being sold locally without heat treatment. In all seven cases notices restricting the producers were issued and the milk was diverted for heat treatment before sale. The distributors were found alternative supplies of "safe" milk until the affected cows in the herds had been removed and the milk certified non-tuberculous.

Our Register under the Acts and Regulations contains the following:—

|                                     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Milk distributors                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Dairies                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Supplementary Pasteurised Licences  | ... |     |     |     | 4  |
| Supplementary Sterilised Licences   | ... |     |     |     | 2  |
| Dealers Pasteurised Licences        | ... | ... |     |     | 4  |
| Dealers' Tuberculin Tested Licences |     |     |     |     | 2  |
| Dealers' Accredited Licences        | ... | ... | ... |     | 1  |

Distributors generally keep their dairies and milk utensils in clean and satisfactory condition.

The steady decline in the numbers of retailers using churn, bucket and ladle distribution, with its attendant unavoidable contamination, is a pleasing feature of the milk trade, from my point of view.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

Of the 23,660 persons living in the District, about 23,029 are served with Council main water. 6,134 houses have water laid over sinks in; 182 have water laid to taps in wash-houses; 301 houses are served by standpipes and 177 houses are served by water from shallow wells and springs. The majority of the houses served by standpipes are not fit for repair at reasonable expense or for other reasons should be dealt with by demolition. Accordingly, as action under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, is contemplated within the next six years, owners are not being asked to spend wastefully on improvements of water supply.

Council main supplies in the District arise from four principal sources:— (a) boreholes at Warton into Keele Sandstone; (b) borehole at Bramcote discharging into shallow well; (c) well at Ansley into Keele Sandstone, and (d) from well at Baddesley Colliery. The water is pumped from each of these stations to a series of reservoirs from which it gravitates. Chlorination is by automatic plants which were installed at each of the three Council owned pumping stations in 1949.

Fifteen samples of Council main water and 28 samples of waters from other sources have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. The results of these and of action taken are briefly expressed in the following Table.

| <i>Source of Sample</i>                                               | <i>Public Analyst's or<br/>Bacteriologist's<br/>comments</i>                             | <i>Result of Action<br/>taken</i>                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fifteen samples of Council mains water from various parts of District | Chemically and bacteriologically of good quality and suitable for use as a public supply | —                                                                    |
| Shallow Well                                                          | Suspicious quality                                                                       | Not accessible to mains. Advised boiling                             |
| Shallow Well                                                          | Polluted and unfit                                                                       | Main water laid in                                                   |
| Shallow Well                                                          | Polluted and unfit                                                                       | Main water laid in                                                   |
| Shallow Well                                                          | Potentially unsafe                                                                       | Not accessible to mains. Advised boiling                             |
| Shallow Well                                                          | Potentially unsafe                                                                       | Dis-used                                                             |
| Seven Shallow wells in Birchley Heath area                            | Polluted and unfit                                                                       | Extension of mains proposed. Inconvenient standpipe erected meantime |
| Shallow Well                                                          | Polluted and unfit                                                                       | Main water not available. Advised boiling                            |
| Spring                                                                | Bacterial contamination                                                                  | Chlorination increased                                               |
| Spring                                                                | Polluted and unfit                                                                       | Main water laid in                                                   |
| Spring                                                                | Bacterial contamination                                                                  | Chlorination plant being installed                                   |
| Spring                                                                | Safe for drinking                                                                        | —                                                                    |

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In 1947, there were 5,051 houses rated at £16 and under in the District. Of these, 464 were not served by public sewerage systems. Superficially, it would then appear that as a rural area we are well served with means of disposing of sewage. Is this actually the case?

The Parishes of Atherstone, Mancetter, Ansley, Baddesley Ensor, Grendon, Dordon, Hartshill, Polesworth and part of Baxterley are served by Council owned sewage works and sewerage systems. Apart from the Baxterley installation, all the works were laid down over thirty years ago and, without exception, they are incapable of dealing efficiently with the sewage from the populations which they now serve. In the Parishes of Atherstone, Mancetter, Grendon and Polesworth, parts of the combined sewerage systems

are too small to take the flows occurring during times of storm. Consulting Engineers are employed in drawing up schemes for rectifying these matters and providing new sewage works. The Atherstone-Mancetter Scheme has now received Ministry approval, except that the sewerage of some fifty houses in the old part of the Mancetter Village has been excluded from the Scheme. From these fifty houses crude sewage liquor is being discharged directly and indirectly into the R. Anker. The river water when it reaches our district is heavily polluted; below the village it does not conform to the chemical requirements of a good sewage works effluent. The Consulting Engineers working on the Polesworth and Dordon Schemes have reached the stage of submitting an estimate of costs and a brief outline of the works and new and relief sewers to be laid down. Above the existing Polesworth sewage works outfall the R. Anker is polluted, but after receiving the effluent which has a B.O.D. of 9.7, the condition of the river water, as might be expected, deteriorates.

The effluent from the Dordon Sewage Works shews gross impurity with B.O.D. 6.46. 238 houses are now in course of erection at Dordon and the sewage from these will be "treated" at this works. Comment seems superfluous.

This unfortunate story of the condition of sewage works can be repeated for each and every one of the thirteen public sewage works in the District. Providing new or enlarging existing works and laying new and relief sewers where necessary is not only a grave public health matter, but can be a serious financial burden also.

There are no public sewerage systems in the Parishes of Bentley and Oldbury. Part of Merevale Parish sewage is pumped into Atherstone Parish sewers. The Freasley Ward of Polesworth Parish has a private drainage system which serves the houses near the Green. About one-third of the houses at Caldecote have a sewerage system which discharges into an isolated thicket where land irrigation is practised.

The sewage from the Ansley Common and Chapel End areas of Ansley and Hartshill Parishes is discharged into neighbouring Nuneaton Borough sewers. Apart from the cost, this is a very satisfactory arrangement.

Within three months of coming to this area in 1943, I called the Council's attention to the lack of proper sewage disposal facilities at some forty houses built close together at Birchley Heath. The Council has since done all that is possible to provide sewers and sewage disposal works, but Ministry disapproval has prevented action.

In this 20th century it is hardly credible that reasonable works to obviate the menacing conditions at Birchley Heath are prohibited by the responsible Ministry.

## SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

In 1939, the Council owned 708 houses; none were built during the War-years; none were demolished through enemy action. At the 31st March 1953, we had 1,570 occupied Council owned dwellings; 98 having been completed in the year past, making a total of 862 finished and occupied since the end of the War. A further 221 houses were approved or under construction at that date.

During 1952, the Coal Industry Housing Association proceeded with site works for 90 houses at Ansley Village and 238 houses at Dordon. All these houses were, I believe, originally intended for transferred miners, but the National Coal Board have now agreed that at least fifty per cent. shall be allocated to local miners. A very welcome reduction in our lists of applicants will result from the National Coal Board's action and it is of financial advantage also, in that there is no Rate Fund Subsidy.

At the end of December, there were 678 applicants for Council houses—263 tenants of existing houses and 415 lodger families—whose applications had not been satisfied. In addition there were 100 applicants selected in mid-December and awaiting the completion of houses in course of erection.

In 1951, the Council had undertaken to build 50 houses each year for 5 years for transferred miners. Whether or not this agreement will have to be honoured now that the Coal Industry Housing Association is building, is not known.

Our method of selecting tenants is not by an involved points system; conversely it is a simple and most effective way of selecting those applicants whose merit of housing is greatest. The only priority given is to those families of which a member is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, or to families lodging in a house where there is such a case in the tenant's family.

When selecting tenants for a batch of houses, all the applications in the files are examined and all applicants who appear to stand a chance of being selected and to whose workplace the site is convenient, are extracted and investigated within fourteen days of the Selection Committee Meeting. All details relevant to the applications are placed before the Selection Committee. Names of applicants are not known to Committee Members; code numbers only are

used and favouritism is thereby prevented. From the up-to-date information given to the Committee satisfactory and fair decisions result.

## HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

Being principally a mining area, the work of refuse collection is an entirely different proposition during the winter months from that of the kinder months of the year. Much of the miner's allowance coal is stored during the summer months and liberally burnt, as it should be, from October to March. From the additional seasonal refuse output occurring the difficulty is created of maintaining sufficient staff to economically and efficiently deal with collections throughout the differing summer and winter months. Accordingly, from October to March collection intervals usually progressively lengthen. Illness during the winter months aggravates the labour position and inclement weather further encumbers. Occasional labour for this type of work has not been available for fifteen years past, so that relief cannot come from seasonal increase of employces. Your establishment strength is maintained so that refuse can be cleared every seven days during the summer months.

In twelve parishes refuse collection is carried out by direct labour. In the Parish of Atherstone a Contractor is employed, the Council providing and maintaining the vehicle used. By direct labour, we employ one part-time Foreman, six Driver-Loaders and eight Labourers. Four Shelvoke Drewry Freighters are engaged on direct labour refuse collection and a converted Morris Commercial removes night-soil part-time each week.

The Council does not undertake the cleansing of cess-pools in any part of the District.

The following table shews the numbers of houses cleared of refuse, pails, privies and dry-pits emptied and the number of loads of house refuse deposited at the tips by the direct labour refuse collection service.

| Year | Houses  |        |         |         | Covering<br>Material | Total<br>Loads |
|------|---------|--------|---------|---------|----------------------|----------------|
|      | Cleared | Pails  | Privies | Ashpits |                      |                |
| 1952 | 213,166 | 21,705 |         | 15      | 8                    | 3,117          |

The Council has adopted the Conditions of Service of the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Manual Workers, together with the Sickness Benefit Scheme and two week's annual paid holiday. In the financial year ended 31st March, 1953, the cost of the Sickness Benefit Scheme was £230 17s. 11d. The percentage of time lost in each quarter of the year since the inception of the Scheme is indicated below.

| Year | March<br>Qtr. | Percentage of Time Lost |                   |  | December<br>Qtr. |
|------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|
|      |               | June<br>Qtr.            | September<br>Qtr. |  |                  |
| 1949 | —             | —                       | Nil               |  | 2.8              |
| 1950 | 6.6           | Nil                     | 0.3               |  | 5.1              |
| 1951 | 5.6           | 1.1                     | 1.2               |  | 1.7              |
| 1952 | 2.0           | 2.8                     | 2.3               |  | 5.6              |

Following I give you the Expenditure on Refuse Collection and Disposal in the year ended the 31st March, 1953, together with analysis costs per 1,000 population, per person and per dwelling.

| Detail      | House Refuse<br>Collection | Night-Soil<br>Collection<br>and Disposal | House Refuse<br>Disposal | Total |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
|             | £                          | £                                        | £                        | £     |
| Annual Cost | 8,038                      | 912                                      | 692                      | 9,642 |

In addition to the above, £454 was expended in purchasing land for tipping space. Such land is thereby improved and a General Rate Fund asset when completed for which the Refuse Collection Account receives no credit when the land be sold or put to other use. Seriously then, the land purchase figure cannot be accounted a true expense against refuse disposal. Accordingly, the following figures of costs exclude that item.

| Detail                        | House<br>Refuse<br>Collection | Night-Soil<br>Collection<br>and<br>Disposal | House<br>Refuse<br>Disposal | Total   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
|                               | £ s. d.                       | £ s. d.                                     | £ s. d.                     | £ s. d. |
| Cost per 1,000<br>population  | 339 16 6                      | 630 3 4                                     | 29 4 9                      | 954 6 6 |
| Cost per dwelling<br>per year | 1 3 8.5                       | 2 3 9                                       | 2 0.4                       | 3 9 5.9 |
| Cost per dwelling<br>per week | 5.4                           | 10.1                                        | 0.47                        | 1 3.5   |
| Cost per person<br>per year   | 6 9.2                         | 12 7.2                                      | 7.0                         | 19 11.4 |
| Cost per person<br>per week   | 1.5                           | 2.9                                         | 0.1                         | 4.6     |

### HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL.—

Thirty years of tipping household refuse at Dordon concluded in July. The tip was alongside a main road and adjacent to about 150 houses, the tenants of which were inclined to be expressive in complaints and condemnation of the Council's tipping activities and crickets. I was pleased indeed to arrange the final sealing of the tip with some hundreds of tons of soil from Coronation Avenue Housing Site and to look forward to further burying the

refuse under soil from the C.I.H.A. site then proceeding at Dordon.

July also saw the commencement of tipping in the dis-used Grendon Hall fish pond at Warton Road, Grendon, the water from which I had drained away by having some twenty yards of new ditch excavated. This tip served the northern part of our district to the end of the year.

Tipping throughout 1952 of refuse from Atherstone Parish and the southerly part of the area was carried out at Goose Hill Quarry, Hartshill.

The following shews the numbers of loads of house refuse taken to the tips by the direct labour refuse collection service in 1952.

| Dordon<br>Tip | Grendon<br>Tip | Hartshill<br>Tip | Night-soil to<br>Sewage Works |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1,009         | 911            | 989              | 208                           |

Controlled tipping is carried out at each tip and at the close of each day uncovered refuse is treated with Gammexane Dust from April to September, to prevent insect infestations.

### SALVAGE.

Throughout the War-years waste-paper and cardboard was salvaged and hand baled. In 1947, a Mechanical Baling Press was installed in the Depot, the results being the doubling of waste paper sales. In June, 1949, the waste paper market collapsed and collections were discontinued. In January, 1951, prices for mixed waste paper soared, £16 12s 6d. per ton being obtained at peak. In June, 1952, paper mills were overstocked, so many collectors having responded at the profitable price ruling. In July, the Council again decided to stop collections for the price had fallen to £4 per ton; I felt that anything less than £7 per ton was not economic.

Salvaging of rags and woollens, scrap metals and bottles and jars was carried on throughout the year.

During 1952, items salvaged were:—69 tons 13 cwts. 2 qrs. waste paper and cardboard; 17 tons 4 cwts. scrap metals; 4 tons 11 cwts. 1 qr. rags and woollens and 169 gross bottles and jars.

To the end of the year salvage sales amounted to £1,111 13s. 8d. Nett profit was estimated at £692 7s. 9d. fifty per centum of which was paid to the refuse collection employees under the profit sharing scheme introduced in 1951.

### FACTORIES.

At the end of 1952, there were 101 factories entered on the Factories Register; 23 of these were temporary entries

of building sites, etc. Of the 78 permanent factories, 6 were of hat manufacturers (these employed the majority of the factory labour in the area); 9 other factories manufactured hosiery, shoes and other articles of apparel; 14 factories are engaged in engineering and light industry. The other 49 permanent factories are 13 bakehouses; 7 builders yards; 4 grain warehouses; 10 garages and 15 miscellaneous undertakings.

In 1950 the number of outworkers on the Register was 69; in 1951 this number fell to 43 and in 1952 the number further declined to become 34. The majority of these outworkers part process in their homes articles of wearing apparel for local hat, shoe and hosiery manufacturers.

In 1952, there were 18 certificates in force under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, relating to Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire. No new certificates were issued during the year, but four amendments were made to certificates previously issued; these were in respect of factories where alterations had been carried out.

94 visits of inspection were paid to factories and 43 defects, generally of a minor character, were found. 29 written notices were sent to factory managements; only six of the defects were not remedied at the close of the year and were transferred to 1953 records.

| Details                                                                       | No. on Reg. | Inspections | Written notices | Prosecutions    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| i. Factories where Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 enforced by L.A. ... ...              | 4           | 4           | —               | —               |
| ii. Factories where Sec. 7 only enforced by L.A.                              | 74          | 76          | 29              | —               |
| iii. Other factories where Sec. 7 enforced by L.A. (Building Sites, etc.) ... | 23          | 24          | —               | —               |
|                                                                               |             |             | Defects Found   | Defects Remed'd |
| Unsatisfactory means of fire escape                                           | ...         | ...         | 6               | 6               |
| Want of cleanliness (S1)                                                      | ...         | ...         | 2               | 2               |
| Overcrowding (S2)                                                             | ...         | —           | —               | —               |
| Unreasonable temperature (S3)                                                 | ...         | —           | —               | —               |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S4)                                                   | ...         | —           | —               | —               |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)                                           | ...         | —           | —               | —               |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S7)                                                    | ...         | ...         | —               | —               |
| (a) insufficient                                                              | ...         | ...         | 2               | 2               |
| (b) unsuitable or defective                                                   | ...         | ...         | 14              | 13              |
| (c) not separate for sexes                                                    | ...         | —           | —               | —               |
| (d) inadequately indicated                                                    | ...         | ...         | 3               | 2               |
| (e) artificial lighting not provided                                          | ...         | ...         | 8               | 5               |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

The following premises are Registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

|                                      |     |     |    |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Fried Fish and Chip Shops            | ... | ... | 30 |
| Preparation of Cooked Meats, etc     | ... | ... | 31 |
| Sale and/or manufacture of Ice Cream |     |     | 64 |

In addition to routine visits of inspection made to the above mentioned registered premises, other establishments where food is handled, stored or sold, have also been visited. These include provision shops, cafes, canteens, bakehouses, etc., to which Section 13 of the above Act applies. It was generally found that the requirements of that Section, and the Food Handling Byelaws, made under Section 15 of the Act, are complied with. Food delivery vehicles have also received periodical attention.

When infringements of the Act or Byelaws have been found informal action has been sufficient to provide a remedy. Details of the work carried out under this Section will be found set out at the end of this Report.

### ICE CREAM.

The number of premises in the district which are registered for the manufacture, and sale of Ice Cream continue to increase and, by the end of 1952, they totalled 64. The bulk of Ice Cream sold in the district is obtained by retailers from large manufacturers without the district, and nearly 100% is wrapped at source. Only six vendors continue to manufacture their own commodity for sale from their shops and, during the year, two of these virtually ceased production. One of the manufacturers also sold his product from a motor vehicle travelling the district; the vehicle is fitted with washing facilities and is in a satisfactory condition.

During the summer months a total of 29 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry for bacteriological examination, 23 were of Ice Cream manufactured in the district and 6 of "Imported" Ice Cream. The results were graded as follows:—

|                      |     |     |    |
|----------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Provisional Grade 1. | ... | ... | 12 |
| 2.                   | ... | ... | 7  |
| 3.                   | ... | ... | 6  |
| 4.                   | ... | ... | 4  |
|                      |     |     | —  |
|                      |     |     | 29 |
|                      |     |     | —  |

When making visits to premises where Ice Cream is sold a decided increase was noticed in the sale of "Iced Lollies". Upon investigation it was found that much of the supply was coming from Ice Cream factories and that the commodity was wrapped. During the summer months a few Ice Cream vendors started making their own "Iced Lollies" and by the end of the summer the practice had spread considerably. Eleven samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all were found to show "no evidence of lack of hygienic methods in preparation". Only two of the samples were manufactured outside the district.

### UNFIT FOOD.

The articles of food which were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption at the various food shops, etc., are given in the following table. The food was destroyed except when it was at all possible to salvage it.

| No. | Description                                                           | cwts. | Qrs.               | lbs. |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|------|
| 606 | Tins of Meat, Milk, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables, etc. (Blown, holed etc.) | 5     | 3                  | 3    |
| 25  | Tinned Cooked Hams                                                    | 2     | —                  | 18   |
| 30  | Tinned Luncheon Meat and Pork Butts.                                  | 2     | 21 $\frac{1}{2}$   | 19   |
|     | Bacon and Ham                                                         |       |                    |      |
|     | Luncheon Sausage and Black Puddings                                   |       | 9                  |      |
|     | Faggots                                                               | 1     | —                  |      |
|     | Pork Pies                                                             |       | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$    |      |
|     | Pressed Pork                                                          |       | 5 $\frac{3}{4}$    |      |
| 35  | Eggs                                                                  | 4     | 6                  |      |
|     | Fish Cakes                                                            |       | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$    |      |
|     | Tea                                                                   |       | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$    |      |
| †   | Flour and Pudding Mixture                                             | 1     | 16                 |      |
| †*  | Biscuits                                                              | 2     | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$    |      |
|     | Desicated Coconut                                                     | 1     | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$    |      |
|     | Herbal Cough Sweets (unsaleable)                                      |       | 20                 |      |
| 1   | Store Bullock carcase and organs (extensive bruising)                 | 4     | 2                  | —    |
|     | * Salvaged.                                                           |       | + Damaged by fire. |      |

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938—1950.

Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Warwickshire County Council, has sent a report on his activities in our area during 1952, I commend this following Report to your notice.

SAMPLES OBTAINED WITHIN THE AREA OF THE AATHERSTONE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
1952.

I have the honour to report that during the year ended the 31st December, 1952, the undermentioned samples were obtained within the area of the Atherstone Rural District Council, and were submitted for analysis by the County Analyst, under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938—50:

|                                 |     | No. of<br>samples | No.<br>unsatisfactory |
|---------------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Butter nut toffees              | ... | 1                 | 1                     |
| Chemical food                   | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Cream cheese                    | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Dressed crab                    | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Epsom salts                     | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Fish paste                      | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| French mustard                  | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Fruit pectin crystals           | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Gin                             | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Ground almonds                  | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Honey                           | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Ice cream                       | ... | 7                 | 2                     |
| Jelly crystals                  | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Lemon cheese                    | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Liquid fruit pectin             | ... | 2                 | 2                     |
| Malt vinegar                    | ... | 2                 | —                     |
| Milk                            | ... | 90                | 6                     |
| Mincemeat                       | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Olive oil                       | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Orange crush                    | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Pork pie                        | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Sausages (beef)                 | ... | 2                 | 1                     |
| Sausage (pork)                  | ... | 3                 | 2                     |
| Tomato soup                     | ... | 1                 | 1                     |
| Zinc and castor oil<br>ointment | ... | 1                 | —                     |
| Totals                          | ... | 125               | 15                    |

No legal proceedings were taken in respect of any of the fifteen samples which proved to be unsatisfactory.

Four of the milk samples contained slight amounts of added water, whilst the remaining two were found to be deficient in fat, due to insufficient mixing of the milk. Cautions were, however, issued to the vendors concerned, and further checks were made, which proved to be satis-

factory. The three unsatisfactory samples of sausages were deficient of the required amount of meat, and, in these cases also, the persons concerned were cautioned. The samples of tomato soup, which was found to be deficient in fat, was re-sampled at a later date, and proved to be satisfactory.

The remaining samples which proved to be other than genuine, were referred to the manufacturers concerned.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries are made into notified cases of infectious diseases and disinfections of houses, bedding and clothing are carried out when necessary.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylactic measures in houses where infectious diseases exist is carried out from six premises in various parts of the District and from the Public Health Department.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one premises in the district where the business of rag and bone dealing is carried on.

## CANAL BOATS.

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Byelaws made under the Public Health Act, 1936, are in force in the District. These permit two minutes black smoke emission in  $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour from factory chimneys.

Whenever casual observations indicate possible contravention of the byelaws, timed observations are taken and further action taken when necessary.

During 1952, 14 observations were made of four factory chimneys in Atherstone Parish; 6 of the results shewed infringement of Byelaws. At only one factory was this trespass truly serious; action taken resulted in satisfactory reduction in black smoke emission.

The results of the six unsatisfactory observations are noted below:—

| <i>Black smoke<br/>Mins.</i> | <i>Moderate<br/>Mins.</i> | <i>None or slight<br/>Mins.</i> | <i>Total<br/>Mins.</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4 $\frac{3}{4}$              | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$           | 20                              | 30                     |
| 7                            | 7                         | 16                              | 30                     |
| 3 $\frac{1}{4}$              | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$           | 22 $\frac{1}{4}$                | 30                     |
| 3 $\frac{1}{4}$              | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$           | 23 $\frac{1}{4}$                | 30                     |
| 3                            | 4                         | 23                              | 30                     |
| 4 $\frac{1}{4}$              | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$           | 21 $\frac{1}{4}$                | 30                     |

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries bears one-half of the cost of this service and their methods of rat extermination are used.

The Council employs one full-time Rodent Operative and during the year he has exterminated rats at 106 infested premises. 61 of these were private dwellings and 7 were business premises. At properties owned by the Council, 20 treatments were given at sewage works, 6 at tips and 12 at other holdings. After treatments the Rodent Operative collected 406 bodies of rats. In the last five years the Rodent Operative has picked up the bodies of 3,109 rats that he has accounted for. As the majority of poisoned and gassed rats die in inaccessible places, the total kill may run into the teens of thousands. Assuming that these rats would have had progeny which begin to multiply when two months old, producing young 6 to 12 at a litter, 6 times a year, normal gestation 21 days, it should forcibly strike the most indifferent that rat destruction is not only a good job done, but one of the most essential.

The sewers throughout the District are given two systematic treatments each year, to destroy rats therin. The following statement compares the last maintenance treatment given to the initial treatment results of 1946, which are shewn bracketed.—Total number of manholes in full and connected systems 484 (458). Number of manholes baited 383 (337). Number of manholes shewing pre-bait complete take on one or both days 27 (59). Number of manholes shewing partial pre-bait take on one or both days 126 (237). These results indicate that this work has had good effect.

## WORKS DONE AT PREMISES DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952.

| HOUSING                                     | EXTERNAL |     |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|-----|
| Walls—                                      |          |     |
| Raked and re-pointed or rendered            | ...      | ... |
| Door sills repaired or new fixed            | ...      | ... |
| Vertical damp proofing of walls             | ...      | ... |
| Open areas constructed                      | ...      | ... |
| Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased | ...      | 4   |
| Roofs—                                      |          |     |
| Stripped and re-slated or re-tiled          | ...      | ... |
| Repaired and made weather-proof             | ...      | 37  |
| Skylights repaired                          | ...      | 3   |
| Gutterings—                                 |          |     |
| Repaired and/or new provided and fixed      | ...      | 41  |

|                                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Downspouts—                                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Repaired and/or new provided and fixed              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30  |
| Chimney stacks—                                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Wholly or in part taken down and re-built           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11  |
| Raked and re-pointed                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   |
| Pots provided and fixed                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Yards, Courts and Passages—                         |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Taken up and re-laid or concreted                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   |
| Water Supply—                                       |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Laid on into houses                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25  |
| Standpipes dis-used                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| Wells dis-used                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| New pumps provided to wells or repaired             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —   |
| Wells cleansed                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —   |
| Wells repaired                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Bursts repaired                                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| “Furred-up” services replaced                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   |
| Drainage—                                           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| New lengths drain and/or drainage systems provided  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31  |
| Defective drains re-laid                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10  |
| New inspection chambers constructed                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17  |
| Defective inspection chamber covers replaced        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| Ventilation shafts repaired                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   |
| Cesspools cleansed                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   |
| New gullies provided                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24  |
| Obstructed drains released                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22  |
| Septic tanks and percolating beds built or improved | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   |
| Closet Accommodation—                               |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| New W.C. compartments built                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19  |
| New W. C. pedestals fixed                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14  |
| Conversion to W.C.s.                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27  |
| Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   |
| New pail closets built and conversion to pails      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10  |
| Privy Middens disused                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9   |
| Washing Accommodation—                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| New wash-houses built                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | —   |
| Dilapidated coppers repaired                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18  |
| New furnace pans fixed                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Ashes Accommodation—                                |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| New ash bins provided                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 354 |

### INTERNAL

|                                 |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Walls—                          |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Totally or in part re-plastered | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |

|                                                |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Ceilings—                                      |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Totally or in part re-plastered                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 |
| Windows—                                       |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Defective frames repaired or replaced          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
| Windows re-corded                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Doors—                                         |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Repaired, replaced and/or weather boards fixed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Floors—                                        |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| Defective skirtings replaced                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Solid floors re-laid                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| Staircases—                                    |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Woodwork repaired                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Handrails provided and fixed or repaired       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Fire Ranges and Grates—                        |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| Repaired and/or new fixed                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Sinks—                                         |     |     |     |     |     |    |
| New sinks provided and fixed                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| New wastes fitted or existing repaired         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6  |

#### FOOD PREPARING PREMISES AND SHOPS

|                                                                                                     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors, utensils, fittings, etc., cleansed, repaired or renewed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| New making-up rooms provided                                                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Washing basins, soap, towels, hot and cold water, provided or arrangements improved                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| New sanitary accommodation provided or existing improved                                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |

#### LICENSED PREMISES

|                                   |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Bar sink/s and hot water provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Improved sanitary accommodation   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| New sanitary accommodation        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |

#### MISCELLANEOUS

|                                                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Premises rat-proofed                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| Rat infested premises cleared by Rodent Operative | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 106 |
| Offensive accumulations removed                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| Keeping of animals nuisances abated               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Other nuisances abated                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12  |



